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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 3665

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054956

E.O. 12065 GDS - 3/5/1985 (CWRUSER)

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM INVITATION TO JACOBO TIMERMAN.

1. THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM SENT TO JACOBO TIMERMAN ON MARCH 2 AN INVITATION TO GIVE A SERIES OF LECTURES AT THE SCHOOL. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HAS OFFERED TO PAY ROUND TRIP AIRFARE AND WILL ARRANGE FOR MEETING TIMERMAN'S EXPENSES IN NEW YORK SHOULD HE ACCEPT INVITATION AND BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE ARGENTINA BY GOA. LECTURE SERIES WOULD BE PART OF REGULAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA; SCHEDULING AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS WILL DEPEND ON TIMERMAN'S AVAILABILITY.

2. INVITATION WAS SENT TO TIMERMAN IN CARE OF LA OPINION UNDER THE NAME OF FRED YU, ACTING HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM. YU WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED THAT TIMERMAN NO LONGER CONTROLS LA OPINION AND INVITATION WILL BE CABLED AGAIN TO HIM AT HIS HOME ADDRESS.

3. DEPARTMENT ADVISED OF THIS INVITATION BY JERY LABER OF THE FREEDOM TO PUBLISH COMMITTEE. SHE ADVISED THAT COLUMBIA INVITATION WAS INTENDED TO GIVE GOA CONVENIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR ALLOWING TIMERMAN TO DEPART ARGENTINA

AND SHE ASSERTED THAT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DOES NOT INTEND LECTURE SERIES AS A VEHICLE FOR EXPOSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN ARGENTINA. IF GOA ALLOWS TIMERMAN TO LEAVE, LABER DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT HE WOULD RETURN IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. REQUEST THAT EMBASSY MAKE APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES AS TO WHETHER TIMERMAN HAS, IN FACT, RECEIVED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY INVITATION. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER GOA WILL PERMIT TIMERMAN TO DEPART IN ORDER TO ACCEPT AND WHAT ACTION USG SHOULD TAKE, IF ANY, TO SUPPORT THIS OBJECTIVE. VANCE

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